

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**

**COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_**

..title

AN ORDINANCE relating to the annual budget of the Office of Arts and Culture; amending Section 5.40.120 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

..body

WHEREAS, in November 2002, Ordinance 121006 reorganized the Seattle Arts Commission

(SAC) into a new Executive department, the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs (now

called the Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS)); recreated SAC as an advisory body; set

forth duties of ARTS and SAC, and the budget role of SAC; and affirmed ARTS use of

20 percent of the City’s Admission Tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, in November 2009, Ordinance 123155 increased the portion of the Admission Tax

revenue directed to ARTS from 20 percent to 75 percent, and established these revenues,

rather than General Fund resources, as the key source for ARTS funding; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 123155 clarified that the City Council’s dedication of a portion of the

City’s Admission Tax revenues to arts and culture was intended to provide a “relatively

stable, reliable and dedicated revenue stream to fund [ARTS] core programs”; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 123460 clarified the list of funding priorities, required that ARTS

develop fiscal policies related to the use of Arts Account funds, and supported short-term

use of funds for Department of Parks and Recreation uses until the end of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s proposed budget for 2016 increases the portion of the Admission Tax

revenue directed to ARTS from 75 percent to 80 percent, which affects Section 5.40.120

of the Seattle Municipal Code;

NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

1 Section 1. Subsection 5.40.120.A of the Seattle Municipal Code, which section was last  
2 amended by Ordinance 124539, is amended as follows:

3 **5.40.120 Receipts to General Subfund and Arts Account**

4 A. Receipts shall be allocated as follows:

5 1. Beginning January 1, 2016, ((A))all receipts from the admission tax levied in  
6 this Chapter 5.40 shall be placed in the General Subfund of the General Fund, except that ((75))  
7 80 percent of all admission tax receipts shall be deposited into the Arts Account of the General  
8 Subfund of the General Fund.

9 2. Beginning January 1, 2017, all receipts from the admission tax levied in this  
10 Chapter 5.40 shall be placed in the General Subfund of the General Fund, except that 90 percent  
11 of all admission tax receipts shall be deposited into the Arts Account of the General Subfund of  
12 the General Fund.

13 3. Beginning January 1, 2018, all receipts from the admission tax levied in this  
14 Chapter 5.40 shall be deposited into the Arts Account of the General Subfund of the General  
15 Fund.

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17 Section 2. If the Mayor determines in any given year's proposed annual budget that the  
18 City's financial condition and revenue growth is not sufficient to offset the resulting loss of  
19 General Subfund resources, then the Mayor shall transmit for the Council's consideration budget  
20 legislation proposing to amend Seattle Municipal Code section 5.40.120 to change the allocation  
21 of admission tax receipts to be deposited into the Art Account of the General Subfund of the  
22 General Fund.

1           ~~Section 2. The City hereby establishes the goal of dedicating 100 percent of the~~  
2 ~~Admission Tax revenue to the Office of Arts and Culture, if the City's financial condition~~  
3 ~~remains strong and revenue growth is sufficient to offset the resulting loss of General Fund~~  
4 ~~resources. This goal will be achieved through a phased approach that increases the share of~~  
5 ~~Admissions Tax revenues dedicated to Arts in graduated steps so as to minimize the General~~  
6 ~~Fund impact in any given year.~~

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